Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-02

PRS-01 SP-02 EB-07 /030 W

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R 211514Z OCT 76 FM AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS TO AMEMBASSY ROME USIA WASHDC INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 155

UNCLAS DAMASCUS 7214

USIAC

ROME PLEASE PASS MARC SPIEGEL, VICE, PRESIDENT, MPEAA USIA/IMV PLEASE PASS MPEAA WASHINGTON

- 1. SYRIAN CABINET CHANGE IN AUGUST RESULTED IN CHANGE OF MINISTER CULTURE AND NATIONAL GUIDANCE. THERE ARE ALSO INDICATIONS OF POSSIBLE CHANGE IN LEADERSHIP OF STATE CINEMA ORGANIZATION.
- 2. NEW MINISTER EAGER TO CONTINUE NEGOTIATIONS AFTER REOGANIZATION CINEMA ORGANIZATION. SHE REQUESTED EMBASSY ARRANGE FOR MARCH SPIEGEL VISIT EARLY DECEMBER IF POSSIBLE.
- 3. EMBASSY ELIEVES THIS TIMING WOULD BE ESPECIALLY APPRORPIATE, PARTICULARLY IF MPEAA BORAD MEETING SCHEDULED FOR JANUARY AS WAS CASE THIS YEAR.
- 4. AMONG LINGERING ATTITUDES NEW MINISTER PREY TO IS
 BELIEF THAT MPEAA-SYRIAN GOVERNMENT DIFFICULTIES RESULT
 FROM MPEAA ANTI-SYRIAN POLITICAL ATTITUDES. EMBASSY
 HAS DONE UTMOST PERSUADE SYRIANS PROBLEMS ARE ECONOMIC
 RATHER THAN POLTICAL. BELIEVE DECEMBER VISIT BY SPIEGEL
 ESSENTIAL TO OVERCOME FINAL HURDLES.

KEITH

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